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Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware that the struggle of the Koothali peasants has already been withdrawn as a result of the interview the Malabar Kisan Sangh representatives had with the Collector of Malabar and also the interview Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar had with the Hon. Minister. Though no undertaking was given, it was withdrawn on the understanding that the Government would take suitable action in the matter and see that, without affecting the reserved forests and the lands under litigation, other lands would be given to the peasants for cultivation? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have heard that some persons who sought to trespass into the forest area were prevented from doing so. I do not know what the struggle is, whether there was a struggle and what was the basis on which the so-called struggle was withdrawn."

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" May I know the representations made by Sri Krishna Ayyar to the Hon. Minister? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member, Sri Krishna Ayyar, had told me that they were prevented from entering the land and they should be given lease of land in the forest areas. Then I discussed the matter with the Collector and after ascertaining the position, I told Sri Krishna Ayyar when he met me on my way back from Malabar that the Collector was of the opinion that there was no land in the forest which could be leased out and disafforested. But still the Collector had already told the people who wanted to cultivate the land a month ago, that if they could point out any specific plot of land in that area which could be cultivated, he and the District Forest Officer would examine the matter and then decide it but they should not resort to any other course. The Collector also told me that there were about 1,200 acres of vacant land in another area which had been reserved and he asked those people whether they could cultivate them but still they were not interested in the proposal."

Secretaries to market committees

* 1829 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 8-40 a.m.

(*a*) the reasons for amending the Madras Commercial Crops Marketing Act, 1933, and for appointing the Government Secretary to the Market Committee; and

(*b*) whether the appointment of a Government Secretary has improved the activities and the financial position of the South Arcot Market Committee?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The main reasons for the Government taking power upon themselves to appoint Secretaries to the Market Committees are :

(1) to relieve the Chairman of the Market Committee of the burden of office routine;

(2) to place the responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the Market Committee on one executive authority (viz., the Secretary);

(3) to cope with the expansion of activities of Market Committees; and

(4) to ensure the appointment of persons with technical qualifications as Secretaries to Market Committees.

" (*b*) A general improvement is reported in the activities of the South Arcot Market Committee since the advent of the Secretary appointed by the Government. For example the markets at Chinnasalem and Ulundurpet are reported to have been improved. It is too soon to say whether there is any improvement in the financial position of the Market Committee."

Industrial Museum, Madras

* 1830 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) what rent is paid by the organizers of the Industrial Museum at Mount Road to the Government;

(*b*) whether the buildings used for the Museum are required for the extension of the Government Press at Mount Road;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a separate building has been asked for by the Museum authorities in the Government Estate, Mount Road, for the industrial museum;

(*d*) what are the aid and loan given by the Government to this Industrial Museum; and

(*e*) whether the Government have examined what the resources of the Museum are, before granting the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Rs. 5 per mensem.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) The request was for a site. A proposal is under consideration to put up a building on a site in the Government Estate facing Mount Road, with financial assistance from the Government of India to be used by the Handicrafts Emporium in Madras, set up by the Government of India, and the Industrial Museum.